

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number.

1. (Amended) A metal-air cell having an anode/electrolyte and a cathode with a separator positioned there-between, said cell comprising:

a container having an upper interior surface and a lower interior surface for housing said anode/electrolyte and said cathode;

a spring disposed on said upper interior surface;

a cover electrically connected to said cathode and having at least one recess; and

at least one o-ring disposed on said lower interior surface facing said at least one recess;

wherein said spring is compressed when a force is applied so that said at least one o-ring and said at least one recess are separated, thereby forming an inlet to introduce air for electrochemical reaction; and said spring is expanded when said force is removed so that said at least one o-ring is inserted within said at least one recess to obstruct the air.

2. (Amended) A metal-air cell as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said force is applied by a cell holder.

3. (Amended) A metal-air cell as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said container is cylindrical in shape.

4. (Amended) A metal-air cell a claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a gas-permeable membrane disposed around said cathode and along interior sidewalls of said container to prevent moisture from exiting the cell.

6. (Amended) A metal-air cell as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said anode comprises zinc.